

[1 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

**Private investments in atomic power generation**

262. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals before Government to invite investments in atomic power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of regulatory mechanism being adopted in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Atomic Energy act, 1962 to enable private sector and participation in nuclear power generation in the country is currently under consideration of the Government. However, no final decision has been taken.

(c) Atomic Energy Regulatory Board carried out safety regulation of all nuclear power plants.

**Uranium availability in the country**

263. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of recent "Indo-US Nuclear Agreement" signed between the two countries, Government propose to initiate a complete 'review' on the present availability of Uranium in the country, required for peaceful use of nuclear power;

(b) if so, the details of the quantity of uranium available in the country, State-wise, particularly in 'ROHIL' in Rajasthan; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to fuel our Nuclear Power Plants, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Review of availability of Uranium is done from time to time.

(b) The total identified resources of Uranium in the country as on date are about 1,03,730 tonnes ( $U_3O_8$ ). The total uranium resources identified

in ROHIL are 2953 tonnes ( $U_3O_8$ ). The details of State-wise distribution of uranium resources are as furnished below:

State	Uranium Resources
	Tonnes ( $U_3O_8$ )
Jharkhand	47,809
Meghalaya	17,152
Andhra Pradesh	27,870
Chhattisgarh	2,968
Karnataka	3,818
Rajasthan	4,113

[1 Tonne of  $U_3O_8 = 0.848$  Tonnes of uranium metal]

(c) The Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has initiated steps to construct more uranium mines and plants in different parts of the country to fuel nuclear power plants. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Hyderabad, a constituent unit of DAE, has intensified uranium exploration activities many fold for augmentation of additional uranium resources.

#### **Increasing power generation with atomic fuels**

264. SHRISITARAM YECHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase power generation with atomic fuels;

(b) if so, the proposed investment requirement for per MW Unit of atomic energy;

(c) whether Government undertook any cost benefit analysis of atomic power generation in comparison with that of coal, hydro, naphtha and other such fuels;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and